

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 06721 101419Z POSS DUPE
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----101613Z 115328 /45
O 101315Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3307

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 6721

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR IN
SUBJECT: APPROACH TO THE GOI ON INDIAN OCEAN DEMILITARIZATION

REF: STATE 105734

1. I SPOKE TO FOREIGN SECRETARY MEHTA THIS EVENING (MAY 10) ABOUT AMBASSADOR GOHEEN'S INTENTION OF SEEKING GOI VIEWS CONCERNING WAYS THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT PURSUE INDIAN OCEAN DEMILITARIZATION. I EMPHASIZED, AS INSTRUCTED, THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL INTEREST, REFERRING TO THE PARAGRAPH IN HIS LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON THIS SUBJECT AND SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR A QUICK RESPONSE.

2. MEHTA SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER GREATLY APPRECIATED THE PRESIDENT'S WARM AND SUBSTANTIVE LETTER AND WOULD REPLY SOON. IN REGARD TO OUR QUERY CONCERNING INDIAN OCEAN NEGOTIATIONS, HE SIMPLY SAID THAT THEY WOULD RESPOND. HE WENT ON, HOWEVER, TO MAKE A GENERAL PRESENTATION OF GOI VIEWS ON GREAT POWER RIVALRY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, INDICATING THAT IT AFFECTS SMALL, POOR AND NONALIGNED COUNTRIES WHICH ARE NOT INVOLVED IN THE STRATEGY OF GREAT POWERS AND SHOULD BE ARRESTED OR REVERSED. SPEAKING PERSONALLY HE SAID THIS WOULD ALSO AVOID "COMPLICATIONS" IN THE RELATIONS OF NON-ALIGNED POWERS WITH GREAT POWERS. HE SAID IT WAS SOMETIMES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 06721 101419Z POSS DUPE

SUSPECTED THAT THE GOI POSITION ON THE INDIAN OCEAN WAS NOT EVEN-HANDED; THIS WAS NOT REPEAT NOT CORRECT. ITS POSITION WAS THAT THERE SHOULD BE REDUCTION AND ELIMINATION OF THE GREAT POWERS PRESENCE. MEHTA SAID THAT THE GOI HAS SOMETIMES MENTIONED DIEGO GARCIA BUT IT HAS ALSO MENTIONED THAT ALL BASES SHOULD BE ELIMINATED. ONE KNOWS, HE SAID, THAT THERE ARE OTHER BASES ALTHOUGH "IT IS A LITTLE DIFFICULT FOR US TO

FIND OUT ABOUT THEM." FROM PUBLISHED SOURCES, MEHTA EXPLAINED, THEY KNEW THAT DIEGO GARCIA HAD THE CHARACTER OF A BASE.

3. SINCE HE SEEMED SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN ABOUT SOVIET FACILITIES, I DESCRIBED THE SOVIET INSTALLATIONS IN SOMALIA, INDICATING THEIR RELEVANCE, IN MY VIEW, TO THE INDIAN OCEAN PROBLEM SINCE THE US WOULD NOT UNILATERALLY DEMILITARIZE. I VOLUNTEERED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME IT.

4. WE WILL SEND AROUND TO MEA THE TEXT OF THE JULY 1975 REPORT OF SENATOR BARTLETT ON HIS VISIT TO BERBERA. IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS ADDITIONAL AND MORE CURRENT INFORMATION WHICH WE MIGHT MAKE AVAILABLE WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING IT BY POUCH PRIOR TO AMBASSADOR GOHEEN'S ARRIVAL.
SCHNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE06721
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770164-0843
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770574/aaaacmbc.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: df0e4597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 105734
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2583065
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPROACH TO THE GOI ON INDIAN OCEAN DEMILITARIZATION
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, IN, US, UR, XO, (GOHEEN, ROBERT F)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/df0e4597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009